

Bug Words and Phrases

Bug out

to leave; to pack up and get out

Cindy told Melvia, "We've been here long enough. Let's bug out."

Bug someone

to bother someone

Please stop bugging me. Go bug someone else. Paulette was so irate about the new computer time card system that she decided to bug someone in the payroll office.

As snug as a bug in a rug

wrapped up tight; warm and comfortable

Catherine looked as snug as a bug in a rug wrapped up in her new fur coat.

As busy as a bee

very busy

At the end of the calendar year, John was as busy as a bee because he had only one week to spend the rest of the budget money.

As tight as a tick

extremely stingy

Pat never spends money to eat lunch. She is tight as a tick.

Give someone a buzz

to call someone on the telephone

Abby decided to give Melvia a buzz to discuss the magazine.

As merry as a cricket

cheerful

Agnes was as merry as a cricket when she returned from her vacation.

Knee high to a grasshopper

not very tall; short and small

Susan ran into her former neighbor Bridget. "I haven't seen you," she said, "since you were knee high to a grasshopper."

Open a can of worms

to uncover a set of problems; to create unnecessary complications

After Darneka cleaned up her room, she discovered a messy closet. This opened a can of worms.

The early bird catches the worm

if you arrive early, you will succeed

Lynn is the early bird that catches the worm. She arrives at work before dawn.

Worm something out of someone

to get information out of someone

Paula did not want to tell me the truth about the vase, but I finally wormed it out of her.

Get butterflies in one's stomach

to get a nervous feeling

Tom told us how his son gets butterflies in his stomach before he plays soccer.

Desperate diseases must have desperate remedies

a seemingly insurmountable problem requiring extraordinary measures to solve it *I think we should cancel our presentation since Ruth says she won't help us.*

Even a worm can turn on you

even the placid will become angry if abused

You should stop mistreating your dog. He is a very well-mannered animal, but even a worm can turn on you.

Have a bee in one's bonnet

to have an obsession about something

George has a bee in his bonnet about people not following the company's sick-leave policy.

Time flies

time sometimes seems to pass very quickly

Time flies when the Forum staff prepare the articles for the magazine.

As gaudy as a butterfly

gaudy; colorful

Cathy wore a bright colored dress to work. Everyone said she was as gaudy as a butterfly.

You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar

it is easier to get what you want by flattering people and being polite to them than by making demands

Melvia always smiles and gives compliments when she wants Paulette, Cindy, and Pat to do something unpleasant. She thinks she can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.

Do something on the fly

to do something while one is moving

John, you cannot work on the printer now. You will have to do it on the fly between various appointments this afternoon.

Bug off

to stop bothering someone

Peter told Melvia to bug off when she pressured him to return the manuscripts. Then Melvia fired Peter.